

# Chapter 5: Groups and Group Roles

## 5.1 About Groups

---

A group is an organizational entity defined by the VO which refers to a subdivision of the VO's overall project, and to which some subset of the VO's members are assigned, according to their responsibilities in the project. Each group has one or more group owners, group managers, and members, all of whom are VO members.

Groups may be organized hierarchically such that the ownership attribute of a parent group is automatically inherited by a child group. The hierarchy starts with a single VO-wide root group, owned by a VO administrator, to which all members get automatically assigned. A VO administrator is responsible for assigning ownership to next-level-down parent groups for each group hierarchy. A member assigned to a given group (somewhere down in the hierarchy) is automatically granted membership in the group's top parent group, although not in any intermediate parent groups.

A given LRP may enforce different resource access privileges for different groups within the VO. This is done via a mapping between the VO groups and local resource privileges. This mapping is expected to implement default behavior for any VO/group/subgroup not known to the LRP. For example, say a user is a member of groups MYVO:generic and MYVO:x. If the group MYVO:x is not recognized by this particular LRP, the mapping should ensure that the user get the access privileges for the group MYVO:generic.

## 5.2 About Group Roles

---

LRPs need to be able to differentiate between classes of users in order to appropriately map users to accounts on their local resources. Some users will inevitably require greater privileges than others. This differentiation is accomplished via a mechanism called "group roles", which are roles that correspond to particular computing privileges at a site and to which VO members may be assigned.

Group roles are defined VO-wide, not by group. In fact, group roles have nothing to do with groups, described in section 5.1 *About Groups*, except that the assignment of group roles to members in VOMRS takes place within the context of groups. Group roles get assigned to members via the same VOMRS screen as groups, and a member must be assigned to at least one group in order to be assigned a group role. Members may be assigned to multiple group roles.

In VOMRS, a group role is nothing more than an attribute of a VO member that gets transmitted to VOMS; it has no meaning within VOMRS, per se. In VOMS, however, group roles are attached to requests for extended proxies.